Invitation to Prime Minister of Pakistan to Visit India

201. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has invited Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shrimati Benajir Bhutto, to visit India in the hear future; and

(b) if so, what is the response of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) During the visit of Prime Minister to Islamabad in December 1988, both the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan had extended invitations to visit each each other's country. The invitations had been accepted by both the Prime Ministers.

Deportation of Indians from Singapore

202. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA :
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

, (a) what is the total number of Illegal Indian immigrants in Singapore required to be deported to India after the amendment of the Immigration Act by Singapore Government in January, 1989 ;

(b) what is the number of such illegal immigrants who are presently in Singapore jails and are subjected to torture and harassment ; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government of India for their repatriation to the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) 1752 Indian visa-overstayers voluntarily registered themselves with the Indian High Commission in Singapore before May 23, 1989. All have since been repatriated with the assistance of the Government of India.

(b) According to available information, 60 Indians are presently in Singapore Jails on account of immigration offences. The Indian High Commission in Singapore has received no complaints from them of torture or harassment.

(c) After a series of consultations with the Singapore authorities in Singapore and New Delhi, it was agreed that all Indians who had overstayed their visas or had entered Singapore illegally and who voluntarily registered themselves with the Indian High Commission by May 23, 1989, would be repatriated without any penal action being taken by the Government of Singapore. Accordingly, 1752 Indians who registered themselves with the Indian High Commission have since been repatriated.

Necessary assistance had been given to the 10 Indians who had earlier been sentenced to varying periods of imprisonment and 3 strokes of cane, by the District Court of Singapore, for illegal entry/overstay, to file appeals in the High Court. Subsequent to the rejection of their appeals, 9 of them filed petitions to the President of Singapore for clemency and they have been excused from the sentence of caning but they > have to serve their prison sentences. The Appeal of the 10th Indian for revision of the sentence is pending in the High Court of Singapore.

On 17th July, 1989, Singapore Government announced a second and final amnesty to enable all immigration offenders including those who have been arrested but are awaiting trial or repatriation to be repatriated without punishment from 18th July

until 8th August, 1989.

A team of senior officers of the Ministry of External Affairs has visited Singapore recently and held detailed discussions with the concerned authorities with a view to minimise the cases of illegal entry/ overstay of Indians in Singapore.

Running of private cars as taxis in Delhi

203. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV :
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the running of thousands of private cars as taxis in Delhi duping the Exchequer of huge revenue annually ;

(b) if so, whether any exercise has been made by Government to know the number of unlicensed private cars being run as taxis in Delhi, the persons involved, and the extent of the annual revenue loss being suffered by the Exchequer as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken/ proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RA-JESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) Delhi Administration have informed that as and when any private car is found being used as a taxi, it is prosecuted by the Delhi Traffic Police. From 1-1-89 to 30-6-89, 166 private cars were found being used as taxis. The prosecutions have been launched against them. The checking exercise is done on a continuing basis, and violations are dealt with in accordance with the regulations.

Since definite number of private cars being operated a« taxis in Delhi is not possibly ascertainable, the extent of annua; revenue loss cannot be worked out.

204. *[Transferred to the 21th July* 1989].

205. *[Transferred to the 25th July,*

f WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 18TH JULY, 1989.

Plan to increase the production capacity of Defence Units

*1. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to increase the production capacity of the existing defence units to meet the defence need and to aoid giving any order to the private sector ;

(b) if so, the details thereof : and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c) Plans for increasing production in existing defence units, and setting up of new units, are designed to meet the needs of the Defence Services for sophisticated products, involving high technology. Such plans are also designed to utilise the existing industrial infrastructure in the country, including that in the private sector.

It would not be in the public interest to disclose the details of the plans on the needs of the Defence Services.

t The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, the 18th July, 1989 was adjourned after Obituary References. Answers to questions put down in lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday the 19th July, 1989.